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LOTS OF BRAINY AIDES

Rusk Needs Delicate Touch

By WALTER T. RIDDER

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WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Dean Rusk is said to be a pretty good diplomat. If this is so, one of the areas in which he is going to have to exhibit his diplomatic form is here in Washington. Rusk is not entirely in an enviable position. He's in for some difficult times in trying to keep clear his lines of communication to the President.

The reason for Rusk's difficulties is that quite a number of New Frontiersmen have an interest in foreign policy and the problem of keeping them from stumbling over themselves could easily become acute. Among those who have things to do with foreign policy are George McGovern, director of the Food for Peace program; Sargent Shriver, the President's brother-in-law, director of the Peace Corps; Henry LaBouisse, administrator of the International Cooperation Administration; Allan W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and in the White House, the brilliant, able and energetic team of McGeorge Bundy and Dr. Walter Rostow, who handle matters of national security for President Kennedy.

Immediately below him in

rank, Rusk has Undersecretary of state Chester Bowles, who has never been noted as a shrinking violet.

IT IS THE working out of a relationship between Rusk and the Bundy-Rostow team which may present the secretary of state with his most delicate job. Both Bundy and Rostow are men of ideas who clearly have the ear of the President. They are right at hand in the White House and confer almost daily with the Chief Executive. Rusk is geographically further away and he may often be out of town on official business.

Bundy and Rostow toss off ideas, it is said, at the rate of about 1,000 an hour—most of them good—and a large proportion of the ideas fall into Rusk's "IN" basket. A mature, experienced, somewhat cautious man, Rusk filters the ideas and uses those he wants and discards those he doesn't. The arrangement could work out well, if everyone is properly careful not to overstep the limits of his jurisdiction.

IT COULD, on the other hand, create a first-class mess. Human nature being what it is, ambitions and resentment could flare, differences of opinion could become aggravated and competition for the President's attention and approval could become fierce and public. In

stration when all are feeling their way and when sensitivities are recognized, the arrangement has, as far as can be ascertained, functioned satisfactorily.

It is in the future that the trouble lurks, for there are certain to be disputes, arguments over policies and methods, differences of opinion.

Among the many diplomatic assignments falling upon Rusk is one to see that the above does not happen, that he manages to be the secretary of state in fact as well as name, and that he keeps his privacy without colliding with or antagonizing Bundy and Rostow.



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